

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 were previously canceled. Claims 12-20 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 21-22 have been amended. Support for the amendments made to independent claims 21 and 22 can be found in at least Figures 3 and 5-7 of the application as originally filed. A telephone interview was conducted between Examiner Yan and Applicant's representatives on March 9, 2005 in which proposed amendments to claims 21-22 were discussed. Applicant has amended claims 21-22 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. The Examiner indicated in the interview that the claims as amended herein are believed to distinguish over the art of record.

In the Office Action mailed November 22, 2004, claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In the Office Action mailed November 22, 2004, claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2119711 in view of EP 0574124. In the Office Action claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,722,273 to Jahn ("Jahn") in view of EP 0574124. Applicant filed a response to the Office Action on January 31, 2005 in which claims 21 and 22 were amended. In response to the Amendment filed on January 31, 2005, an Advisory Action was mailed on March 1, 2005.

In the Advisory Action mailed on March 1, 2005, it was indicated that in view of the Amendment filed on January 31, 2005, Applicant has overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejections of claims 21-22. In the Advisory Action, it was asserted that "with respect to claim 21, the newly recited roller for applying lacquer to the plate cylinder by direct contact reads on roller 5 as taught by GB 2119711 when the fountain roller 1 and doctor blade 12 are replaced by a doctor blade chamber device taught by EP 0574124." It was further asserted in the Advisory Action that "with respect to claim 22, the newly recited roller for applying lacquer to the plate cylinder by direct contact reads on the blanket cylinder 8 with is in direct contact with plate cylinder 5."

As previously discussed, Applicant has amended claims 21 and 22 as suggested in the interview of March 9, 2005. In particular, independent claim 21 has been amended to

include the features of "providing a doctor blade chamber device and a screen roller which operates as both a lacquer applying unit and a dampening unit for alternately applying lacquer and alternately applying water" and " wherein lacquer is applied to the plate cylinder by direct contact of the screen roller with said plate cylinder, said screen roller adapted to receive the lacquer from the doctor blade chamber device." Applicant respectfully submits that the art of record fails to teach or suggest use of a screen roller to apply lacquer to a plate cylinder by direct contact of the screen roller with the plate cylinder, where the screen roller is adapted to receive the lacquer from a doctor blade chamber device as found in independent claim 21. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 21 as amended distinguishes over the art of record and requests that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of independent claim 21 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 22 has been amended to include the features of "providing a first doctor blade chamber device and a screen roller which operates as a lacquer applying unit for applying lacquer" and "applying lacquer to the plate cylinder by direct contact of the screen roller with said plate cylinder, said screen roller adapted to receive the lacquer from the first doctor blade chamber device." For similar reasons as those discussed with respect to independent claim 22, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 22 as amended distinguishes over the art of record and requests that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of independent claim 22 be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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